

ment, our ancestors justly regarding large expenditures as oppressive to themselves, destructive of public credit, and as tending to breed corruption in the official servants. They erred undoubtedly on the side of economy. And that same spirit which retarded public education and threw us so far in the rear, likewise kept back internal improvements for a generation in our midst. Our legislators were slow to learn that a wise expenditure is the truest economy. Now that these great truths in regard to both mental and physical progress have been accepted by our people, cruel events and dishonest legislation have thrown us back again fully a quarter of a century in the march of prosperity. Truly, it is sad to contemplate. Still there is no cause for despair. All the elements of wealth and prosperity remain with us as ever. If the true sons of the State will only work as they fought and suffered, our reproach may yet be taken away from us among the nations. And let it not for a moment be supposed that these North Carolina people, of whom I so love to speak, are as far behind their neighbors as the number of them who cannot read or write would seem to indicate. The man who believes they are not wide awake on every matter where good hard sense is in demand has only to try the experiment. There are many ways of acquiring education besides reading and writing. In virtue, morality and observance of law they can point to their record with pride. The learned official who compiled the last national census gave us, with great pains, comparative tables of the proportion of inhabitants of each State who could neither read nor write, and illustrated them with "Maps of Illiteracy," which were darkly colored over North Carolina and the southern States, whilst light reigned over the North. If he had, with equal pains, given us "Maps of Crime," of social dishonor, embezzlement, political corruption, scandal, superstitions and God-defying *isms*, and all manner of iniquity, what a shifting of light and shade there would have been! And with what